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PAGE 01 SANTIAGO 0403Z 102023Z

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SUBJ: EL MERCURIO EDITORIAL CRITICIZES ECHEVERRIA

REF: SANTIAGO 4055

1. SUMMARY. HARSH CRITICISM OF PRES. ECHEVERRIA IN LEADING
NEWSPAPER EDITORIAL PROVIDES FURTHER EVIDENCE OF CHILEAN RESENTMENT
OVER GOM'S FAILURE TO FOLLOW THROUGH ON RABASA PROMISES. END
SUMMARY.

2. CONSERVATIVE NEWSPAPER EL MERCURIO IN LEAD EDITORIAL
JULY 10 ATTACKS MEXICAN PRES. ECHEVERRIA IN STRONG TERMS.
MERCURIO SAYS ECHEVERRIA IS "SAD EXCEPTION" IN LONG HISTORY OF
CHILEAN-MEXICAN RELATIONS, EVEN THOUGH HE COMES FROM SAME SYSTEM
AS OTHER MEXICAN PRESIDENTS THROUGH THE PRI, THE "DICTATORIAL
PARTY WHICH HAS CONTROLLED MEXICAN POLITICS AND ECONOMY FOR MANY
YEARS."

3. EDITORIALIST NOTES HARSH RIGOR WITH WHICH ECHEVERRIA AS SEC
GOBERNACION CRUSHED LEFTIST STUDENT DEMONSTRATION AT
TLATELOLCO IN 1968, AND CONTRASTS THIS WITH HIS EFFORTS AS
PRESIDENT TO CREATE IMAGE OF PROGRESSIVE ON INTERNATIONAL SCENE.

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PAGE 02 SANTIAGO 0403Z 102023Z

4. AFTER REVIEWING RABASA PROMISE (AS RELATED BY CHILEAN FONMIN

HUERTA) TO SELL FERTILIZER TO CHILE, EDITORIAL SAYS THAT ECHEVERRIA WILLING TO LEAVE HIS CHANCELLOR IN EMBARRASSING POSITION IN ORDER CONTINUE LEFTIST INTERNATIONAL POLICY. EDITORIAL SAYS"....AMERICAN CONTINENT MUST KNOW THAT THERE IS A MEXICAN PRES WHO RETRACTS THE PROMISES MADE BY HIS CHANCELLOR...AND WHO HAS NO SCRUPLES ABOUT VIOIATING THE PRINCIPLE OF NON-INTERVENTION...WE DO NOT BELIEVE IN ECHEVERRIA'S "LEFTIST" IMAGE...AND HE IS NOT THE FIGURE HE PRETENDS TO BE WHEN HE TRAVELS OUTSIDE MEXICO. HE IS JUST ANOTHER DEMAGOGUE WHOSE WORD IS WORTHLESS (EN UN DEMAGOGO MAS, CARENTE DE PALABRA). THE FIRST THING WHICH A PUBLIC MAN OF STATURE MUST HAVE IS RESPECT FOR THE WORD OF HIS GOVERNMENT. ...ECHEVERRIA WILL RECEIVE THE ADULATION OF THE COMMUNISTS AND SOME OTHER ELEMENTS, BUT THE GREAT MAJORITY WILL CONDEMN HIS FRIVOLITY, HIS SNOBBERY, AND HIS LACK OF RESPECT FOR THE NATIONS WHICH DO NOT FOLLOW HIS LUCRATIVE POLICY."

5. COMMENT. ALTHOUGH THIS EDITORIAL CANNOT NECESSARILY BE CONSIDERED INSPIRED BY THE GOC, MERCURIO, WHICH IS CHILE'S MOST PRESTIGIOUS DAILY IS UNDER THE SAME "SELF-CENSORSHIP" AS THE REST OF THE NEWS MEDIA IN CHILE. IT IS UNLIKELY THAT SUCH STRONG LANGUAGE ABOUT A FOREIGN HEAD OF STATE WOULD APPEAR UNLESS MERCURIO WAS CONVINCED IT REFLECTED THE GOC'S VIEWS.
POPPER

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